East Merced RCD

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-
Lower Stanislaus Watershed

Amount Funded: $286,957
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $2,350,000

Background

The lower Merced River and its adjacent floodplains have been heavily altered through channel narrowing, diking, placement of revetments (rip rap), removal of riparian vegetation and gravel mining. The lower Merced is almost entirely privately owned and its predominant land use is agricultural. Issues of concern in the watershed include: urbanization, water quality, habitat degradation, invasive species, and pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer run-off.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Increased collaboration between agencies and other stakeholders (facilitated coordination between major river advocacy efforts).
- Secured almost $2.4 million in funding for additional watershed work (awarded a Prop. 13 grant).
- Promoted watershed needs to local, regional, and statewide groups (CALFED Watershed Subcommittee, etc.)
- Educated state and local officials to condition and needs of watershed.
- Facilitated ongoing meetings of the Merced River Stakeholders group.
- Continued to coordinate efforts with upper watershed groups.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Established contact with watershed portal and inventory developers (Western Shasta RCD and private consultant), working with new potential collaborators that have current advocacy/education efforts on the Merced River (UC Merced, Merced River Education Initiative, etc.), outreach to additional landowners. Working on implementation of strategy to ensure support and long-term sustainability of local watershed activities. MRS Group is partnering with a number of groups and agencies (UC Davis, private consultant, and the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition) on Prop. 50 grants.

El Dorado Irrigation District

South Fork American Watershed

Amount Funded: $214,157
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $15,000

Background

The watershed is located within the fastest growing region of the Sierra Nevada. Water quality is affected by many factors including timber and mining operations, agricultural runoff, industrial facilities, and recreational use. Natural events such as flooding, soil erosion, and fires exacerbate the problems. It is estimated that more than 13,000 septic systems are located within the watershed. Failing systems could pose problems for local residents, vacationers, and down stream water users. It is imperative that a comprehensive approach be used to prevent potential disasters.

Benefits to the Watershed

Silver Lake – A Reservoir managed by the El Dorado Irrigation District

- Established a Regional Watershed Coordination Team (RWCT) to review projects and address issues on a collaborative, comprehensive basis.
- Created the American River Basin Watershed Portal Website.
- Presented information to stakeholders on Weber Creek restoration and water quality efforts.
- Developed a drought analysis plan.
- Established a database of government organizations, elected officials, watershed organizations, business groups, environmentalists, agricultural stakeholders, and others.
- Partnered with Department of Fish and Game and American River Conservancy to educate elementary school children on watershed/water quality processes and issues.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - Partnered with the CALFED Watershed Subcommittee members to develop a proposal that measures the effectiveness of watershed activities throughout the state. Established the El Dorado Irrigation District's Drought Preparedness Plan, which will reduce water demand through innovative planning and resourceful options. Worked with the RWCT to provide resource managers within the American River Watershed with information to better understand the benefits of regional management and CALFED's unique, regional approach. In 2005, the RWCT is planning an Upper American River Watershed Conference with emphasis on this theme.

Water Use Efficiency – Facilitating and negotiating on a recycled water project to ensure stakeholder participation and overall success of a water use efficiency action to sustain our water supplies.

Drinking Water Quality – Drafting a grant proposal to address septic leakage issues in the South Fork of the American River Watershed.

Fall River RCD

Lower Pit Watershed

Amount Funded: $195,518
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The Lower Pit River watershed spreads across northeastern California. Water drains into Shasta Lake and ultimately into the Sacramento River. The watershed's diverse landscape offers opportunities and challenges in aquatic, forest, and rangeland ecosystems. Invasive species and non-point source pollution impact watershed ecosystems and the resources they support. Noxious and aquatic weeds, including Eurasian watermilfoil, perennial pepperweed, and purple loosestrife obstruct water flow to hydropower facilities, reduce agricultural production, and alter ecosystem function of fish, plants, and wildlife. Tributaries to the Pit River are also impaired by non-point source pollution impacts. The Fall River is listed as an "impaired water body."

Benefits to the Watershed

- Partnered with Pit River Watershed Alliance to perform water quality monitoring.
- Reviewed documents pertaining to aquatic and riparian weeds.
- Compiled information for watershed, noxious, and aquatic weed monitoring protocols.
- Prepared Milfoil identification, impacts, and management options for public presentations.
- Organized weed workshop for stakeholders.
- Worked on newsletter to inform residents of important information.
- Completed geospatial modeling plan for TAG.
- Coordinated with the University of California research staff to address water quality and weed monitoring applications in the Fall River.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Ecosystem Restoration – Developed Fall River Watershed and Noxious Weed Information Management Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This group consists of federal, state, county, and university staff as well as private entities that have an interest in invasive species information for the district. Information for the district may include maps or monitoring data. The information management TAG may ultimately generate internal information sharing to reduce the threat of invasive species within the district. It may also guide the district to more cost-effective mapping and monitoring of invasive species and their disturbances within the environment. The Watershed Coordinator also completed mapping and monitoring of Purple Loosestrife in the Fall River.

Friends of Deer Creek

Upper Yuba Watershed

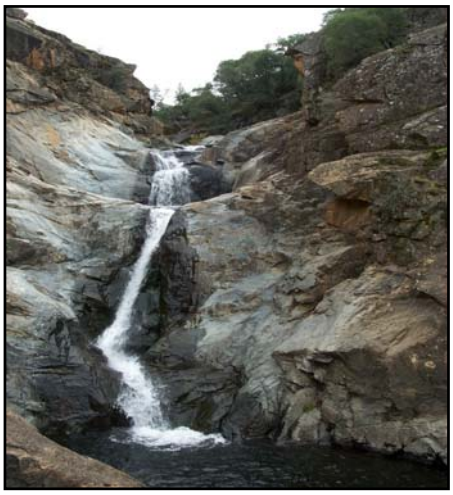
Amount Funded: $196,385
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

Deer Creek is a major tributary within the Upper Yuba Watershed and provides water to the Bay-Delta system. Rapid population growth is causing dramatic changes to the environment and exerting tremendous pressure on the region's natural resources. Past mining practices, increased pesticide and herbicide runoff, and erosion from residential development have contributed to the creek's degradation. The area's high fuel loads and rural setting makes it very susceptible to fires. Due to decades of gold mining, the State posted a fish consumption advisory for mercury. Sedimentation of sand, silt, clay, and fine particulate matter make it difficult for fish to spawn and for people to enjoy the water for recreation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Participated in California's "Coastal Clean-up Day."
- Designed and distributed a brochure to neighbors of the Squirrel Creek Restoration project.
- Coordinated and assisted in the removal of two abandoned cars and an old sofa from Deer Creek.
- Researched and organized a Mercury Working Group.
- Began a GIS aerial mapping program that will identify areas of disturbance within riparian zones.
- Worked on a project that will restore a quarter mile section of Little Deer Creek.
- Developed a protocol for measuring biomass to determine the health of local streams.



Deer Creek Falls below Bitney Springs Road

Benefits to CALFED Program

Water Management - Partnered with local water agencies to write a grant to develop a Water Conservation Plan for Nevada County. Helped prepare education and outreach materials that encourage water conservation, recycling, and water quality improvements.

Drinking Water Quality - Assisted in evaluating water quality, conducting bacteria studies, and collecting information on macro-invertebrates. Assisted with two restoration projects designed to reduce erosion and sedimentation from entering the stream and to replace non-native plants with natives. Worked to address the problem of mercury contamination in fish in Deer Creek watershed by researching and creating a Mercury Restoration Plan. Participated with ongoing water quality monitoring to better support ecosystem health. Results will provide data that will be used for future restoration efforts.

Science – Continued working on algae studies that are looking at biomass distribution, identification, and changes in the Deer Creek Watershed, to correlate with other water quality data for determining watershed restoration projects.

Georgetown Divide RCD

South Fork American

Amount Funded: $123,386
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The watershed is located within the fastest growing region of the Sierra Nevada. Water quality is affected by many factors including timber and mining operations, agricultural runoff, industrial facilities, and recreational use. The threat of catastrophic fires is of paramount concern. Urban pockets are scattered throughout the area, often surrounded by thick vegetation. Fuel loads are growing rapidly. Structures, habitat, animals, and people are threatened. Although numerous reservoirs provide water for local use, hydroelectric production, and agricultural purposes, they are insufficient to meet everyone's needs. Competing demands create conflicts, which can only be resolved through collaboration and cooperation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Participated in the Watershed Education Summit.
- Worked on establishing a Citizen Monitoring Program on Traverse Creek. Contacting volunteers, researching sites, and planning training activities.
- Provided residents with brochures on homeowner erosion control.
- Attended Noxious Weed Management Group, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program, and Conserving Creeks in Developing Communities meetings. Established contacts and collaborated on future activities.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Participated in the creation of the Regional Watershed Coordination Team (RWCT). The team agreed to a common goal of protecting, improving, and restoring the American River Ecosystem. Participated in the creation of the South Fork American River Watershed Portal, a website that provides information to stakeholders. Distributed information to stakeholders on where to go for post fire rehabilitation assistance.

Water Quality - Assisted with monitoring efforts on the Jones Fork Silver Creek, Wench Creek, and South Fork Rubicon River. Participants included agency personnel, teachers, and students from three local high schools.

Glenn County RCD

Upper Stony/Sacramento-
Lower Thomes Watersheds

Amount Funded: $78,292
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The Stony Creek Watershed encompasses approximately 700 square miles of public and private land in Glenn, Colusa and Tehama Counties, and is the second largest Sacramento River tributary on the west side of the Sacramento River. *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix* have colonized much of the lower reach of the creek, and three dams built in the upper watershed have disrupted channel morphology. Natural gravel flow and recruitment has been blocked causing greater channel scouring and bank erosion. Access of anadromous salmonids to the upper reaches of the creek has also been blocked. In addition, water quality sampling by DWR has detected elevated levels of mercury in the sediment.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Compiled relevant studies and watershed assessments in parts of the Stony Creek watershed and wrote an annotated bibliography.
- Helped to create a newsletter published by Glenn County RCD that educates the public about Stony Creek Watershed and the district.
- Created a list of landowner and governmental and non-governmental organization employees for membership on the TAC and Public Advisory Committee.
- Participating in a mentoring program for high school biology students teaching ecology and the importance of habitat restoration.
- Met with potential researchers for future projects.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - The RCD is negotiating an agreement with the CBDA for Prop. 13 Phase III funds to complete a watershed agreement and initiate a monitoring program on the Stony Creek Watershed. The district has also received funding through the NRCS to establish a Technical Advisory Committee. The coordinator is leading these efforts and will act as a general point of contact for watershed activities and information.

Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

Los Angeles / San Gabriel Watersheds

Amount Funded: $249,854
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $128,535

Background

The watersheds of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers cover 1,513 square miles, from the San Gabriel Mountains in the north to the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. The two have been pre-historically linked as a single-braided channel system, and they share two major aquifers (Central Basin and Main San Gabriel Basin). The Los Angeles and San Gabriel watersheds are among the most heavily impacted by urbanization in Southern California. Imported water needs range between 55% and 65%. Water conservation is a significant challenge with the focus on reducing outdoor water consumption.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Implemented the content design and database programming phases of a web-based native plant image library "Plant Profiles" focusing on California native plants of the Los Angeles River Watershed.
- Participated in the Department of Agriculture's Weed Management Area Committee.
- Strategized joint outreach efforts with Tim Worley with the "bewaterwise.com" program and Peigi Duval of the California Native Plan Society state office.
- Participated in the Watershed Council's monthly Landscape Ethics Committee.
- Initiated a dialog between potential Nursery Initiative partners and developed a strategizing and planning document to scope the feasibility and scale of a non-commercial nursery facility.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Ecosystem Restoration – Development of the native plant image library/database supports this program element by providing landscape design and architecture firms with appropriate locally native plant information. The use of locally native plant material is a necessary step in assuring the success of riparian and upland revegetation and restoration efforts.

Mariposa RCD

Upper Merced Watershed

Amount Funded: $155,654
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $470,905

Background

The Upper Merced River Watershed is generally considered to be in good condition; however, there are no systematic studies supporting the watershed's status. The economic vitality of local communities is uniquely dependent on the watershed's good health; recreation and tourism to Yosemite National Park are the basis of the county's economy. Downstream users of the river are also dependant on its water quality. Collection of baseline data is needed to help formulate future land use decisions and actual conditions in the watershed.

Benefits to the Watershed

Volunteers remove starthistle on "Weed Warrior Day" along the North Fork and at Bower Cave on July 27, 2004

- Obtained and setup office for Upper Merced River Watershed where subcommittees and agency partners can meet to share information and resources.
- Developed Action Plan with the BLM River Ranger to monitor recreational impacts in day use, campground, and rafting launch and landing sites.
- Established contact with the Mariposa Tribal Council to identify shared concerns for the North Fork drainage to the Merced River and established a subcommittee to develop an action plan for the area.
- Coordinated with the local high school to develop outreach materials aligned with the school's science and English curriculum and targeted to meet student interests and concerns.
- Worked with new partners (Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Mariposa Arts Council, and South Yuba Citizens League) to extend outreach efforts with workshops, talks, and other mutual projects.
- Using funding from a Sierra Nevada Alliance Proposition 319 grant, recruited and trained 40 volunteers for a citizen water quality monitoring program.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Ecosystem Restoration – Worked with groups of volunteers to monitor invasive weed growth and remove yellow starthistle from sensitive areas in the North Fork drainage. Monitoring of recreational impacts along the Merced River between the North Fork and El Portal is occurring and will provide data for mitigation efforts.

Drinking Water Quality – Forty volunteers have been trained to act as water quality monitors in the Upper Merced River Watershed. A Quality Assurance Program Plan has been written, reviewed by a TAC, and submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board for approval. This work was accomplished under a Proposition 13 Phase II grant.

Mojave Desert/Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council

Upper Kern / South Fork Kern Watersheds

Amount Funded: $216,236
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The area provides tremendous recreational opportunities for millions of Californians and others. Visitors kayak, boat, fish, hike, ride motorcycles, or simply relax. As the population increases so do the challenges. Trash is thrown into the rivers and along riverbanks while unwary visitors spread non-native and noxious weeds. Over the past several years, major fires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres contributing to sedimentation, erosion, and the destruction of habitat. Not only are the spawning areas for the Golden Trout threatened, but also so is the largest cottonwood-willow riparian habitat in the Western United States. This provides habitat to many important animal and plant species. The demand for water downstream is immense and can only be resolved if the diverse communities cooperate and work together to resolve local issues.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Participated in testing for water quality from irrigation water runoff from the local golf course.
- Met with a homeowner's association and stakeholders to discuss possible regional solutions for new arsenic MCL regulations.
- Promoted and assisted in the development of the Bike Path Planning Grant for Lake Isabella.
- Participated in river clean-up event.

Mechanically cleared for fire protection on Saw Mill Road, Lake Isabella

Benefits to CALFED Program

Water Management - Developed watershed monitoring and assessment protocols. Partnered with Kern County Water Agency to conduct water quality testing for oil on the surface of Lake Isabella. Volunteers collected data at three sites. Participated in the Turkey Vulture Festival at the Kern River Preserve. Recruited volunteers and informed stakeholders about the Watershed Coordinator's community role. Continued outreach efforts within the community. Will provide training at the local school to students on monitoring water quality in local streams.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: $230,892
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

Ballona Creek drains a watershed of about 127 square miles and is the largest drainage tributary to Santa Monica Bay. The watershed has historically experienced, and continues to experience, a significant growth in population and related demand for housing, business development and coastal amenities. Also, decreased natural land surfaces have reduced infiltration of rainfall and the replenishment of groundwater. As a result, the use and reliance on imported water has increased dramatically.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Coordinator initiated outreach to the cities of Beverly Hills and Culver City.
- Coordinator is working to bring together the local cost-share agreement for proposed US Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Study.
- Coordinator is involved in policy formation through the Clean Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs (CREST). One policy recommendation includes comparing bacteria levels in concrete channels in urban areas to bacteria levels in natural channels.
- Coordinator researched watershed councils and JPAs along the West Coast to assist the Task Force's evolution into a new and permanent entity.
- Coordinator has compiled a partial list of available state and local grant sources and amounts.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Water Management Program – Coordinated with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's BMP Task Force, which is considering methods of detaining, treating and storing storm water runoff for beneficial reuse projects. Coordinator also met with land-owning agencies to assess the possibility of pursuing actual projects. Additionally, the coordinator facilitated meetings with Southern California Watershed Alliance, Surfrider, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, and Heal the Bay regarding a desire to convert former floodplain land of Centinela/Ballona Creek, currently slated for development, into a constructed wetland.

Water Use Efficiency Program – Coordinator is working to develop potential landscape projects that would revegetate with native plants, reducing dependence upon imported water. One project idea includes revegetating the I-10 Freeway from downtown to Santa Monica with native drought tolerant plants.

Watershed Management Program – Coordinator requested the City of Los Angeles consider stream daylighting at Lafayette Park, which would recreate a stream channel and confer water quality and ecosystem benefits.

Napa County RCD

San Pablo Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: $228,139
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $818,598

Background

The Napa River drains a 426 square mile watershed that discharges directly into San Pablo Bay. The Napa River and its tributaries support a diverse and almost entirely intact community of 16 native fish species, including steelhead and Chinook salmon. Recognized concerns in the river include water diversions, storm runoff, stream bank instability, lack of riparian vegetation, in-filling of pools, loss of wetland, woodland and riparian area habitat, and overall habitat fragmentation and degradation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Four fish barriers were removed in the Sulphur Creek watershed with funding from CDFG and NRCS.
- A riparian revegetation project was implemented in Sulphur Creek watershed with funding from DWR Urban Streams Program.
- The Watershed Forum provided a networking opportunity for stakeholders to communicate about watershed issues in a neutral setting.
- The WICC Web Center is being populated with watershed information, reports and data.

Abandoned road crossing on Sulphur Creek prior to removal and restoration

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The WICC Web Center is being used as a centralized watershed information clearinghouse and communication tool to assist watershed groups and support watershed planning and management. The coordinator is also working on two watershed management plans funded by the Watershed Program.

Post-demolition with banks graded and sloped back at 2:1

Nevada County RCD

Lower Bear and Upper Bear Watersheds

Amount Funded: $232,434
Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The watershed contains over 990 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers. Water flows into the Bear River which drains in the Sacramento Valley. Like many areas of California, the area is growing rapidly creating tremendous pressure on the environment. Bear River is listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for mercury and diazinon. At one time, rivers teemed with salmon and steelhead, but because of increased pollution, high levels of sedimentation, and low water flows, fish populations have virtually disappeared. Fuel loads have grown enormously. Consequently, thousands of homes are now in danger from wild fires. It is critical that stakeholders work together to address issues on a comprehensive basis.

Benefits to the Watershed

Watershed Information Booth at the Nevada County Fair

- Hosted 40 seminars during the Nevada County Fair on watershed health topics and concerns. More than 800 people participated.
- Conducted an education and awareness campaign by sending out letters and meeting with various stakeholder groups.
- Participated in the annual River Clean-up Day. Signed up 20 new volunteers.
- Supported the Grass Valley storm drain stenciling project. Collaborated with schools and local officials to promote the program.
- Set up watershed booth at the Gold County Fair in Auburn.
- Worked with the Wolf Creek Alliance to monitor bacteria in local streams and creeks.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - Coordinated community shaded fuel break projects covering more than 300 acres and affecting 3 different watersheds: Bear, Deer Creek, and South Yuba. Also partnered with local watershed coordinators to address critical issues and to ensure a comprehensive collaborative approach to solving problems within the region.

Ecosystem Restoration - Worked on a vegetation restoration and planning project for a fish passage on Deer Creek located at Beale AFB

Placer County RCD

North Fork American Watershed

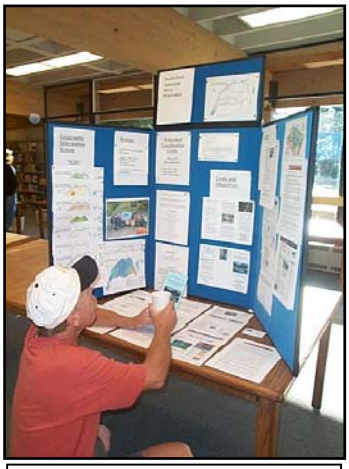
Amount Funded: $234,013
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $554,500

Background

The watershed, which includes both the middle and north forks of the American River, is a key watershed in the Bay-Delta System. Total watershed area is about 950 square miles, with ownership distribution being 3/5 private lands and 2/5 public lands. Threats to watershed health include the potential for catastrophic wildfire resulting from excessive fuels and damage by diseases, increasing human population, and land use decisions.

Benefits to the Watershed

- The watershed coordinator worked with other coordinators in the area to create the "Regional Watershed Coordination Team." One of the team's first accomplishments was to develop the American River Watershed Portal, which has greatly increased communication and information transfer between them.
- The coordinator attended 55 stakeholder meetings, including a 2-day workshop sponsored by Placer County regarding its hazard preparedness plan.
- Updated the American River Watershed Group website with current information. The website is using historic GIS data in the new sediment dynamics study.
- Finalized a grant with CBDA for $554,500 to fund a sediment dynamic study.



Watershed display at Gold Country Fair

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The coordinator promoted collaboration among stakeholders by facilitating community-based partnerships at meetings of the American River Watershed Group and the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance.

Science – The coordinator inventoried existing water quality monitoring activities and is participating on the planning committee for the American River Watershed Conference scheduled for April 2005 at CSUS.

Ecosystem Restoration – The coordinator is identifying potential problem areas, developing solution alternatives, and researching funding sources for restoration projects.

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: $171,542
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $9,920

Background

Malibu Creek is a subwatershed of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. Malibu Creek drains a 109 square mile area of the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills, and flows into the Santa Monica Bay via Malibu Lagoon. The watershed features a wide mix of urbanized areas and wildland habitats and is a critical stopover area for migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway. There are nine pollutants of concern for the watershed on the State Water Board's 303(d) impairment list, including a high nutrient/bacteria count. Further impairments include barriers to fish migration, lagoon function, septic tank effluent, use of pesticides and fertilizers, and erosion from on-going construction, development, gardening, and animal upkeep practices.

Benefits to the Watershed

Watershed tour for stakeholders

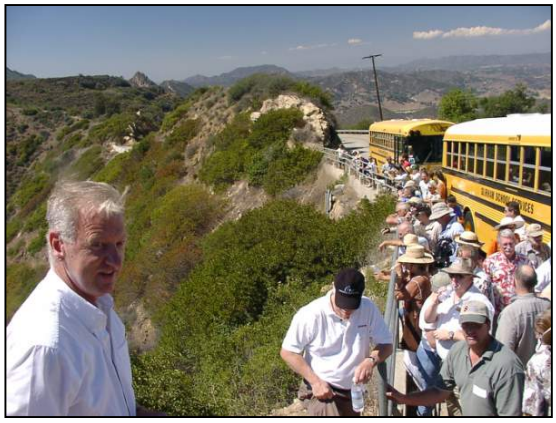
- Coordinator helped plan, find funding for, and present an extensive tour of the Malibu Creek Watershed. This project required extensive co-funding and partnership.
- Supported Heal the Bay's promotional efforts for beach clean-ups and *Vinca* removal days.
- Promoted efforts by Heal the Bay and the Department of State Parks and Recreation to continue with lagoon restoration work.
- Coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding its Feasibility Study including the removal of Rindge Dam.
- Coordinated with NRCS to inform the contractor working on the Serra Bridge construction project regarding upstream water releases and provided key contacts of upstream dams to the contractor.
- Coordinated with the City of Malibu to promote Hazardous Waste Round-up Day.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Storage – The coordinator is researching cisterns and ferro-cement construction for a Topanga landowner who is interested in building a water storage site on his property. The Topanga Community House Board has also expressed an interest in constructing a cistern for use in its operation.

Water Use Efficiency – The coordinator is assisting with a PIE grant in an effort to fund a Gardening Coordinator and conduct a "Delawning Party." The coordinator also worked with a local water district and the City of Malibu to promote low-flush toilets.

Watershed Management – The coordinator is partnering with the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Task Force and the Malibu Creek Watershed Management Council in a watershed-wide effort to ensure projects are complimentary rather than duplicative.



Watershed tour, September 2004

Ecosystem Restoration – The coordinator is partnering with Heal the Bay and NRCS to conduct a tour to promote the use of WHIP grants for ecosystem restoration projects on private land. The coordinator is also working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to remove Rindge Dam.

San Francisquito Creek JPA

Coyote Watershed

Amount Funded: $211,815
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $51,231

Background

The watershed drains into the San Francisco Bay and consists of urban, suburban, rural residential, and wild lands. Like many coastal areas, urban development has been extensive. Consequently, there has been significant loss of aquatic and riparian habitat, severe periodic flooding, and impaired water quality. Many of the creeks have been impacted by sediment and polluted by urban runoff. Approximately every eleven years, stream banks overflow causing wide spread damage and threatening public safety. The watershed is also home to one of the few viable native populations of steelhead fish.

Benefits to the Watershed

- Directed work on two stormwater reduction demonstration projects and two fish passage barrier remediation projects now in the design phase.
- Coordinated and worked on the Salt Pond Restoration/Bay Levee project.
- Partnered with City of Menlo Park and Stanford University on a major construction project impacting creek and fish habitat.
- Worked with a landowner to choose appropriate vegetation choice for property in riparian zone of upper watershed.
- Conducted education outreach activities throughout the watershed.
- Advanced multi-jurisdictional efforts on flood management and ecosystem restoration.

JPA Board members, Watershed Coordinators, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo celebrate a tree planting along San Francisquito Creek in recognition of the JPA's 5th anniversary

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The coordinator promoted collaboration and integration among community-based watershed efforts.

Ecosystem Restoration - Began phase I of the Army Corps Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. Worked to rehabilitate natural processes of streambed and restoring habitat, and aided in recovery of steelhead trout population.

Water Use Efficiency – Worked on a stormwater runoff retrofit project to improve water quality by altering volume, concentration, timing and location of return flows. The project will serve as a model for homeowners by demonstrating that they can modify existing structures to reduce runoff from hardscaped surfaces.

Drinking Water Quality - Provided education to stakeholders on potential storm water runoff property improvements. Advanced educational pamphlet for stakeholders on sediment processes and potential improvements.

San Joaquin County RCD

Lower Cosumnes-Lower
Mokelumne Watershed

Amount Funded: $182,505
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: $1,370,000

Background

One of the primary concerns about the lower Mokelumne River is that as a highly controlled system, the river has lost its natural function. The lower Mokelumne River is also considered impaired for copper and zinc and is on the 303(d) list for those two substances. More than 95% of land within the watershed is privately owned and agriculture is the predominant land use, though development pressure is converting many of these agricultural acres into home sites. Parts of the watershed also have non-native invasive species crowding out native riparian vegetation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- The coordinator facilitated the quarterly meeting of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee (LMRWSSC). This committee helps to keep key stakeholders aware of watershed issues, encourages participation in watershed activities and increases cooperation and collaboration among various stakeholder groups.
- In partnership with the LMRWSSC and East Bay MUD, the coordinator is helping to establish the criteria for an annual watershed stewardship award.
- The coordinator continues to work with the Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board to finalize the contract for a $1.3 million water quality grant awarded in the first quarter.
- The coordinator attended the Adopt-A-Watershed Leadership Institute.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - The coordinator was instrumental in bringing the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program into San Joaquin County. The coordinator is also working with the San Joaquin Watershed Education Partnership (SJWEP) to help teachers develop programs and sites for place-based learning activities.